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ANNEX 9

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2023-2025

Action Document for ‘Peaceful and Resilient Borderlands II’

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Peaceful and Resilient Borderlands II OPSYS number: ACT-61922 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)/ Overseas Association Decision/European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Regulation
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	<p>The action shall be carried out in:</p> <p><u>Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window¹:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Senegal: Kédougou and Tambacounda regions (and possibly eastern part of Kolda region: department of Vélingara)- Mali: Kayes region – cercles de Kayes et Kéniéba ; Kita region – cercle de Kita; Région de Koulikoro – cercle de Kangaba- Guinea: prefectures of Koundara, Mali, Siguiri and Mandiana <p><u>Great Lakes window:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Democratic Republic of the Congo: Ituri and possibly North Kivu- Uganda: Northern and Western regions <p>The final areas for intervention for each of the window indicated above will be confirmed during inception phase.</p>

¹ No direct or indirect support can be provided to Defence and Security Forces in Mali for the time being. Work with local authorities can be possible on a case by case basis. Community-based co-production of security will be prioritised. A similar approach will be adopted for Guinea, adapting to the developments of the political transition.

4. Programming document	Sub-Saharan Africa Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027			
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority area 2 'Governance, Peace and Security, Culture', result 2.7: Improved prevention and mitigation of the impact of local conflict in borderland areas			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Conflict, Peace & Security (152)			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institution Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG1 (No poverty); SDG 2 (Zero hunger); SDG 10 (Reduce inequality), gender equality (SDG 5), job creation (SDG 8) climate action (SDG 13),) and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).			
8 a) DAC code(s)	Conflict, Peace & Security (152): 100%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Channel 1 : 10000 Public sector institutions Channel 2 : 20000 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Channel 3 : 40000 Multilateral organisations Channel 4 : 60000 Private sector institution			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item):</p> <p>14.020120 (West Africa): EUR 30 000 000</p> <p>14.020121 (Eastern and Central Africa): EUR 25 000 000</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 55 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 55 000 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 40 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for year N, including EUR 30 000 000 14.020120 and EUR 10 000 000 from 14.020121. The contribution is for an amount of EUR 15 000 000 from 14.020121 for year N+1, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.</p>			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	<p>Direct management through:</p> <p>- Grants</p> <p>Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.2.1 and section 4.4.2.2</p>			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Borderlands in Sub-Saharan Africa are often characterised by livelihood systems, population, goods and natural and mining resources movements, as well as illegal trafficking, which tend to span beyond national borders. When

associated with insecurity, conflict, poverty, marginalisation and isolation from State-provided basic services, they can become an important factor of instability for the entire continent and lead to major forced displacements. This is the case of the Sahel, with the recent expansion of violent extremism into the Littoral states on the Gulf of Guinea, and of Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with the upsurge of armed attacks by non-state armed groups. This Action intends to address root-causes of instability and conflict by improving the resilience of cross-border communities, strengthening local and border security and promoting local dialogue, mediation and cross-border cooperation, capitalising on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach. To achieve this, an integrated approach will be applied, covering peace and resilience building, including resilience to climate change. There will be two regional windows, corresponding to two different borderlands areas:

Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window:

The action foresees support to stabilisation and development in relevant border areas of Guinea, Mali, and Senegal, and to strengthen cross-border cooperation. The resilience of local communities will be strengthened by improving inclusive access to basic services and fostering inclusive and climate-adapted income generating activities via value chains approach in the framework of Pillar 1 of the Great Green Wall initiative (reinforced and formalised gold mining among others), with a particular focus on women and youth. Stabilisation will be ensured through a local security approach, tackling illegal trafficking (including trafficking in human beings) and cross-border crime and reinforcing security co-production (including internal security forces where possible, civil society, local authorities, women and youth). The aim is to prevent and address local conflicts and building trust towards the authorities. Finally, cross-border cooperation will be fostered via common interest activities, such as disaster risk-reduction, and strengthened local governance (according to the local context, inclusive participation of youth, women, civil society and local authorities), including a territorial approach to local development.

Great Lakes window:

The action foresees support to a strengthened cross-border cooperation aiming at stabilisation and development in relevant border areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda and will focus on the common cross-border area between the DRC and Uganda. The action aims at strengthening stabilisation by improving cross-border climate-resilient infrastructure, supporting local and cross-border governance to provide local actors with the capacities and tools necessary to build resilience and strengthen cross-border cooperation, assisting local actors in the provision of security, including conflict prevention, violence reduction and early warning systems, providing job opportunities and fostering empowerment of groups living in vulnerable situations, in particular youth and women. Special attention will be devoted to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and migrants.

The final areas for intervention for each of the window indicated above will be confirmed during inception phase and after discussions with relevant local authorities and communities, in accordance with existing policy frameworks, including the EU Security Sector Reform Framework. Actions will be adapted to the local context of each area. This action will be implemented in complementarity with other EU ongoing country/regional initiatives, included Commission funded initiatives on mitigating terrorism spill-overs and green sector related actions (in particular NaturAfrica and programmes on pastoralism).

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The current Action is expected to contribute to delivering on the EU policy priorities as set out in the Strategic Compass², the Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy³, the Joint vision for 2030 presented at the latest European Union (EU)-African Union (AU) Summit held in February 2022⁴, the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024⁵, the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-

² A Strategic Compass for Security and Defence - For a European Union that protects its citizens, values and interests and contributes to international peace and security. Approved by the Council at its meeting held on 21 March 2022.

³ Shared vision, common action: a stronger Europe — A global strategy for the European Union's foreign and security policy, 28 June 2016.

⁴ Final Declaration of the 6 th European Union - African Union Summit: A Joint Vision for 2030. Brussels, 18 February 2022.

⁵ Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council. EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024. JOIN/2020/5. 25 March 2020.

2025)⁶, and the EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III)⁷, in particular implementing the women, peace and security agenda. More precisely, the action is in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the Maputo Protocol (Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa). The results of the action will also contribute to the African Union Gender Policy and Agenda 2063, in which Aspiration 6 recognises explicitly the centrality of women in Africa's development, and the Regional Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security, a key tool to increase awareness and inclusiveness of women in peace and security.⁸ The Action will also take into account the relevant actions implemented under the Joint Communication: "A new outlook on the climate and security nexus: Addressing the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security and defence."⁹

It complements at regional level the countries' MIPs by addressing the consequences and root causes of the cross-border security challenges and calls for a collective approach to common challenges. For West African countries in particular, the action will contribute to the 'Arc of Stability'. The action is also in line with the renewed EU Great Lakes Region Strategy and EU investments in regional infrastructure, including the Mombasa-Kisangani Strategic Corridor.

Duty bearers, including development partners, are increasingly focusing on these borderlands to not only address deep-rooted drivers of instability, but also to leverage significant opportunities to boost trade and economic development. The particularities of border regions suggest that support should be based on a true cross-border approach, rather than focusing on one side of a specific border. The EU has already adopted a similar action in 2022 focusing in selected Horn of Africa, Lake Chad and Sahel-Coastal countries borderlands. By continuing to invest in regional cross-border stabilisation and resilience actions, the EU will not only strengthen its political position in the framework of the task forces and clusters working groups tackling the different conflicts affecting these regions, but also be able to foster regional cooperation, which promises to contribute to more lasting stability and economic development. A regional approach will also strengthen cooperation among the different countries involved and boost coordination between the EU and regional/local stakeholders, such as the East African Community (EAC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

The action could complement and contribute to several country and regional TEIs: 'Green economy' (Senegal), 'Green and Blue economy' and 'Stability and good e-governance' (Guinea), 'Peace and security' (DRC), 'Atlantic and Western Mediterranean route migration' (regional), 'Responsible mining in the Great Lakes region' (regional). This Action, under window Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries, could also contribute to the Great Green Wall, NaturAfrica and Global Gateway flagship initiatives.

For the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window, the action will be centred around the region where the borders of Senegal, Mali and Guinea (approximately 1600 kilometers) touch in the valley of the river Falémé. This is an area of intermingling and integration between different populations, often sharing the same history, and as a result, communities on both sides of the border share languages, customs, economic activities, and natural resources (croplands, pastures, waterways, forests...). Up to today, the shared specificity of these borderlands is the impact of gold-mining on their socio-economic development. Today, artisanal gold-mining, while producing wealth, is also a factor of social deconstruction and environmental pollution, and gold-fields are hubs for criminal activities. The populations of these borderlands share a feeling of being remote spaces 'far' from their capitals as well in terms of basic services, infrastructure and unequal socio-economic dynamics.

⁶ Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Social and Economic Committee, and the Committee of the Regions on the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021- 2025. Brussels, 1.12.2021. JOIN(2021) 30

⁷ Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council. The EU Gender Action Plan III: towards a gender-equal world. Brussels, 25.11.2020 JOIN(2020) 17. The [Gender Action Plan III](#) is a Joint communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy which was welcomed through [EU Presidency Conclusions](#) of 16 December 2020. Drafting was led by European Commission in close consultation with EU Member States, EEAS, civil society organisations, partner governments, and international organisations (UN entities, International Finance Institutions among others). The different parties contributed to the drafting of the document through meetings and through responses to a survey conducted during the process.

⁸ [AU Strategy for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment 2018-2028](#).

⁹ [JOIN_2023_19_1_EN_ACT_part1_v7.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

Studies like « Prévenir l'extrémisme violent au Sénégal. Les menaces liées à l'exploitation aurifère »¹⁰ underline the fact that gold mining is a source of income for violent extremist groups in the Sahel. The lack of traceability of the resources financing gold mining and those derived from the marketing of gold fuels the risk of money laundering and financing of terrorism. The gold mining areas of Kédougou and Tambacounda in Senegal, like the transborder regions of Gaoual, Siguiri, and Mandiana in the Republic of Guinea and the western Kayes and southern Koulikoro regions in Mali, contain vulnerabilities that are used by these groups in their strategies to control space and supply circuits in the Sahel zone. The risk of an expansion of the violent extremist threat is not limited to potential attacks and spillovers. It also concerns the fact that territories can be used for financing, procurement, supply and recruitment.

The gap between economic potential and the level of poverty, combined with poor basic social infrastructure, fuels a sense of frustration and exclusion among the population of these borderlands, making them vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups. Moreover, many of these populations do not always have legal documents which makes them prone to protection risks (arbitrary detention, bribes to cross borders, exclusion from access to socioeconomic services). Migratory and financial flows resulting from gold panning disrupt social relations and lead to conflict dynamics, against a backdrop of tensions over access to resources. These massive and uncontrolled flows increase the risk of infiltration and the establishment of extremist elements. Furthermore, illegal transnational trafficking of all kinds generates a criminal economy that can provide violent extremist groups with supplies and build alliances with actors who also seek to escape state control. The environmental and health consequences of gold mining are likely to accentuate vulnerabilities, particularly by reducing alternative income-generating activities and by affecting the health of the population. Reducing socio-economic imbalances that generate frustration, particularly in border areas, requires accelerated, effective implementation of development programmes.

A strengthening of the security system, which would address the various types of trafficking, is crucial to meeting the national and regional challenges related to surveillance and border management. Consultation and awareness-raising efforts must accompany security interventions, which are sometimes misunderstood and resented by gold miners, in order to reduce the derived tensions.

These borderlands would thus benefit from adopting a multidimensional preventive approach. There is an urgent need to accelerate the process of formalising of artisanal and small-scale mining in order to contain illegal exploitation and to strengthen the control mechanisms of the gold marketing circuit. This would combat the multiple vulnerabilities resulting from artisanal gold mining and reduce the risk of terrorist spillover and/or financing in these regions.

For the Great Lakes window, this Action will contribute to the strengthening of economic integration and social cohesion of the cross-border communities in Uganda and DRC through the implementation of an integrated border management approach (EAC concept), facilitated by improved infrastructure, and adopting a peace-building approach.

Within the Great Lakes region, formal and regulated cross-border trade is critical for economic growth, local development and stability. However, intra-regional trade is constrained by limited infrastructure, inter-community tensions, and high levels of corruption, which expand across borders and are rooted in a continuous cycle of conflict, violence, displacement and insecurity. The northern borderland pertaining to Uganda and DRC has been affected by over 20 years of armed conflict. Control over illegal artisanal mine sites in DRC and involvement in the illicit commercialisation of gold across the Ugandan border continues to be a major source of financing for armed groups. This situation is compounded by the low level of border control exercised by national authorities in this area and governance issues which are prevalent at different levels with little transparency and control, rendering the illicit trade of gold and other products, including other mineral resources and food stuff, across the Congolese-Ugandan border possible. The deriving humanitarian situation is disastrous. Around 3 million Congolese have been newly displaced since the beginning of 2022, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the DRC to over 6.1 million, the largest number in Africa. Many of these repeatedly or newly displaced populations do not dispose over legal documents and are prone to the protection risks already mentioned.

¹⁰ ISS/ CHEDS, Décembre 2021, <https://issafrica.org/fr/recherches/rapport-sur-lafrique-de-louest/prevenir-lextremisme-violent-au-senegal-les-menaces-liees-a-lexploitation-aurifere>.

The Action fully aligns with domestic cross-border approaches related to conflict and terrorism prevention, security and border management, decentralisation, economic recovery and social cohesion priorities.

For the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries, the action will be in line with ‘Programme d’urgence de modernisation des axes et territoires frontaliers (PUMA)’ in Senegal, GARSII and other EU-funded programmes in support of national security forces in Senegal and Guinea. The Charter of the Transition, adopted by the Transitional Government of Guinea in September 2021, recognises the importance of peacekeeping and conflict prevention, but makes no specific provision in this regard. On the other hand, social cohesion and the fight against terrorism are included in the government's roadmap presented in December 2021. Border control, in particular with Mali, is a major concern of the Guinean authorities. In Mali, public policies and strategies for border management are a priority. Their implementation is an integral part of the prerogatives, attributions and missions of the National Directorate of Borders (DNF). The latter is still implementing a National Border Policy (2018-2022) while working on a new border strategy that is meant to be implemented through a three-year action plan (2023-2025). Within this framework, the DNF intends to give priority to securing the border areas.

For the Great Lakes window, the action will be in line with the East African Community (EAC)-led Nairobi process which aims to facilitate consultations between the DRC and local armed groups in the DRC and to support the implementation of DRC's national Demobilisation, Disarmament, Community Recovery and Stabilisation Programme (P-DDRCS). Further, the Action will support the economic integration process of the DRC into the EAC, the former having joined the latter in April 2022 whilst important gaps persist in the harmonisation of trade procedures and processes. The Customs Union and Common Market pillars of the East Africa Community (EAC) regional integration agenda are based on the implementation of the regional and continental Free Trade Area (FTA) and Free Movement protocols (FMP). Current delays in the implementation of the integration highlights the need for further adaptation and revision of current regional legislation and established regional processes. The action will build up on initiatives that are already being carried out at transnational level in the selected areas, such as existing transborder cooperation between DRC and Uganda at the Mahagi-Goli One Stop Border Post (OSBP).

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

While each context is different, we can identify several common challenges for the borderlands areas targeted by this action, such as poor state services, poor cross-border trade management and infrastructures, limited capacities of local authorities, illegal trade of goods, conflict and lack of trust between communities.

Poverty is further exasperated by the complex centre-periphery relationship between the borderlands and their respective capitals. This in return negatively impacts the already poor state services (from basic services to border control), increases the (risk of) statelessness and discourages private sector investments. Hence, to meet daily needs, communities tend to revert to informal, illicit or criminal strategies. Illegal trade, transport of illegal goods as well as trafficking in human beings are often reported from border regions.

At the same time, areas affected by conflict and instability and prone to have illicit economies thrive are also the perfect environment for the rise of armed terrorists and criminal groups, which come to establish themselves in these regions. Trafficking and other criminal activities also provide opportunities for violent extremist groups to create strategic alliances with actors who seek to escape state control. The coproduction of security is thus an important strategy for the stabilisation of these regions.

Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window

Resilience

The region is source of concern considering the impact of cross-border relations, leading to conflict between agro-pastoral communities and the significant migratory and financial flows resulting from artisanal gold mining that disrupt social relations and lead to conflicting dynamics. The precariousness of the labor market, the lack of basic services and infrastructures and the weak redistribution of economic growth primarily affects people living in the most vulnerable situations, in particularly small farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, youth and women, often

at risk of being stateless, and constitute an important factor of instability in the short and medium term. The environmental and health consequences of artisanal gold mining, already perceptible in the research area, risk accentuating the identified vulnerabilities, in particular by reducing income-generating activities and affecting the health of populations.

Climate change effects also exacerbates conflict and instability when it relates to access to limited natural resources, affecting people living in the most vulnerable situations. All these constraints limit the possibility of increasing living conditions and incomes in these rural areas. This situation contrasts with the availability, even if limited in some border regions, of factors of production, which offer possibilities for the development of agropastoral value-chains, create new opportunities for employment and meet the growing food demand. This is all the more urgent in a context of increased militarisation of the Sahel plagued by important security challenges. It should not be forgotten that the existing conflicts in the Sahel are also the result of the economic marginalisation and underdevelopment of rural and isolated areas and that it is therefore imperative to develop these areas, in order to be able to guarantee lasting security¹¹.

Local security

To develop effective responses, it is essential to understand how these phenomena interact with communities' resilience in these instable contexts. It is necessary to complement state approaches with community-based responses to fight against the influence of armed groups (terrorists or criminals) and to avoid potentially violent conflict at local level. This approach includes the recognition and involvement of local communities as key elements to fight existing conflicts (Mali) or significant extremism and conflict risks (Senegal, Guinea).

The dynamics of community mobilisation and response to perceived and real security threats are complex, with sometimes grey-lines between community defence and criminality. Strengthening resilience of communities against organised crime and the influence of groups potentially affiliated with armed terrorist groups involves supporting state initiatives. This could be achieved through the improvement of local security and /or public safety via local community councils, religious and traditional leaders, youth and women's associations and networks wherever state initiatives exist or support their creation wherever they do not. Relationships and coalitions between local governmental and non-governmental leaders must be facilitated and women's and youth participation in local governance structures and in decision-making processes reinforced, as both are directly linked to the communities' ability to mobilise as a whole and respond to emerging threats.

Cross-border cooperation

This part of the action concerns support to cross-border territorial dynamics for stabilisation and development in four cross-border formats: Guinea/Mali, Guinea/Senegal, Mali/Senegal and Guinea/Mali/Senegal. This support will enable the establishment and/or operationalisation of Local Groups for Cross-Border Cooperation (GLCT) in the targeted areas. It is part of the implementation of existing bilateral framework agreements between these different countries and national strategies for the stabilisation of border areas. This component aims to contribute to the reinforcement of social cohesion and access to shared basic social services in the cross-border areas of the 3 countries. Ultimately, a total of 67 municipalities could be integrated into the structured cooperation.

Thus the action will strengthen the stabilisation of cross-border spaces through support for local governance. It will also provide local actors with the operational and financial capacities and tools necessary to animate cross-border territories, deliver shared services of general interest, and strengthen cultural links between populations, by providing them with more structured cooperation opportunities.

Great Lakes window

Poor cross-border trade management, governance, infrastructures and local capacity

Formal and flourishing trade is hampered by the lack of infrastructures and institutional capacity, in particular in DRC for which the process of integration into the EAC free trade area and free movement space reveals important

¹¹ Some interesting datas are available in the new study published by UNDP this year in fébruary : '[Journey to extremism in Africa: Pathways to recruitment and disengagement](#)': 'Lack of economic opportunities/employment is becoming one of the 1st reason of extremism in the 8 countries targeted by the study (including Mali).

challenges. Integration of border management across the region and the streamlining of processes for clearance of people and goods at the border, are hindered by the persistence of not-tariff barriers (NTF) and lack of harmonisation on standard operating procedures. Governance issues are prevalent at different levels with little transparency and control. In addition, infrastructure and equipment for OSBPs are lacking, despite some progress made on Mahagi-Goli border. Connecting roads are inexistent or in poor conditions and overall insecure due to the lack of state control and presence of armed groups in DRC. This being said, cross-border trade is associated with important opportunities for local economic development and fiscal revenues.

Illegal trade of goods and natural resources, ongoing community conflict and low levels of trust

Governance issues (linked to the very large revenues from illegal exploitation and trading of resources) are prevalent in a context with little transparency or control. Across Uganda and DRC, informal trade is mostly conducted by vulnerable, small scale and unregistered traders. Women constitute a high percentage of this group of population and given the described context, they are facing important challenges in terms of access to secure and formal cross-border trade. Lack of state surveillance and legal enforcement at border posts have accentuated tensions amongst communities. Poor border management at Lac Albert provides one example of how lacking harmonisation and effective border post management and collaboration can translate into a rise in tensions and conflict between Ugandan and Congolese fishermen. Within small-trader communities and beyond, the need for reconciliation and peace-building is perceived in almost all borderland areas.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

For the two windows we can identify several common stakeholders: local authorities/governments; internal security forces and defence forces; border and customs services; local security initiatives; national governments' relevant Ministries; regional organisations; EU Member States; other donors; humanitarian actors, CSOs, women's groups, youth, traditional and religious leaders; local landowners and economic operators; right-holders. For Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries, the main stakeholders are relevant central ministries and their decentralised services (and in particular security forces and customs), local authorities, specialised national agencies (when local conditions allow it); associations of mineworkers, right-holders; Religious and private sector stakeholders; Relevant regional stakeholders ('Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal', 'Autorité du bassin du Niger'); Other donors and development implementing agencies.

In the Great Lakes Region at the Ugandan and DRC border, the main stakeholders are border and customs services. These include national actors in DRC: Custom office (Direction générale des douanes et accises), the Hygiene service (PNHF), the Immigration office (Direction générale migration), the Hygiene service (PNHF) and Quality control service (OCC), as well as additional border security services (Police Nationale Congolaise, Agence Nationale des Reinsegnements, Forces Armées RDC). In Uganda, the key national stakeholders include: Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control, Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Ministry of Health (Health Monitoring Unit), various security agencies such as Uganda Police, External Security Organisation (ESO) and Internal Security Organisation (ISO).

The programme will also interact with local and sectorial trade organisations or associations, local communities and other relevant civil society organisations towards strengthening formal border management and peace-building process in the region. The Action will devote special attention to the needs and opportunities of migrant communities and IDPs.

Coordination with EU Member States, in a Team Europe approach, and with other donors (e.g. USAID, TradeMark East Africa, IOM and other humanitarian actors) and multistakeholders initiatives (European Partnership for Responsible Minerals, Extractive Industries Transparency, International Conference for the Great Lakes Region) active in the region will also be essential. As the programme will also support the peace process, coordination between stabilisation and resilience implementing partners will also be key.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to improve the social, economic, cultural and institutional conditions for security, social cohesion, development and economic integration of the selected cross-border areas.

Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window:

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

1. Strengthening the resilience of local communities by i) improving inclusive access to basic services and ii) fostering inclusive and climate-resilient income generating activities via value chains approach (reinforced and formalised gold mining among others), with a focus on people living in the most vulnerable situations, in particular women and youth;
2. Improving local security¹² by i) fighting illegal trafficking (including trafficking in human beings) and cross-border crime and ii) reinforce security co-production (including internal security forces, civil society, local authorities, women and youth) to prevent and address local conflicts and building trust towards the authorities;
3. Fostering cross-border cooperation via common interest activities and strengthened local governance (according to the local context, inclusive participation of youth, women, civil society and local authorities).

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

- 1.1 contributing to Specific Objective 1: access to basic services including documentation is facilitated.
- 1.2 contributing to Specific Objective 1: the resilience of populations, especially women and youth, and support the socio-economic development of the territories via value-chain approaches is increased, including the possibility of formalisation of artisanal gold-mining.
- 1.3 contributing to Specific Objective 1: tensions related to the management of natural resources and the environmental impacts of traditional gold-mining are reduced and related conflicts prevented.
- 2.1 contributing to Specific Objective 2: conflict risks decrease by prevention and mediation processes.
- 2.2 contributing to Specific Objective 2: local actors and security forces capacities are strengthened to better ensure security and access to justice for the population.
- 2.3 contributing to Specific Objective 2: artisanal gold mining contributes to local development in a stable, secure environment conducive to social cohesion.
- 3.1 contributing to Specific Objective 3: the governance and integrated management capacities of the Local Cross-Border Cooperation Groups (GLCT) are established and/or strengthened through the creation and joint updating of Cross-Border Local Development Programs (CLDP).
- 3.2 contributing to Specific Objective 3: the CLDPLs are designed and/or operationalised through the carrying out of infrastructures of general interest (basic social services, economic works) in a secure environment,
- 3.3 contributing to Specific Objective 3: coordination, at the appropriate levels (i.e. local and regional), of all the stakeholders of this action across its various components is ensured.

Great Lakes window:

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

4. Promote economic growth by facilitating movement of people and goods across borders;
5. Strengthen social cohesion and security within borderland communities.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

- 4.1 contributing to Specific Objective 4: Border management procedures are efficient, integrated and aligned with EAC procedures.

¹² No direct or indirect support can be provided to Defence and Security Forces in Mali for the time being. Work with local authorities can be possible on a case by case basis. Community-based co-production of security will be prioritised. A similar approach will be adopted for Guinea, adapting to the developments of the political transition.

- 4.2 contributing to Specific Objective 4: Local conditions and capacities for the fight against the illicit trafficking of goods are improved.
- 5.1 contributing to Specific Objective 5: Conflict and tensions within and amongst local border communities are reduced.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window:

Activities relating to Output 1.1

- Creation of basic services small infrastructure resilient to climate change.
- Establishment and empowerment of management committees and commissions in charge of infrastructure in local communities.

Activities relating to Output 1.2

- Support sustainable and climate-adapted value-chains: production, processing and marketing of agropastoral products, especially where women and youth are involved, prioritising circular economy principles where possible.
- Technical and entrepreneurial training, with a possible focus on green jobs and green incubators if local context requires it.
- Exchanges with the private sector on possibilities for the integration of young people.
- Analysis of challenges and opportunities related to the formalisation of artisanal gold-mining and implementation of activities to support this sector.

Activities relating to Output 1.3

- Awareness raising and capacity building on the promotion of sustainable land use adopting climate-smart technologies and agroecology, as well as the management and preservation of water resources, with particular emphasis on the environmental impact of traditional gold-mining.
- Reinforcement of the material and technical capacities of mining cooperatives, including in equipment allowing the extraction of gold without mercury.

Activities related to output 2.1

- Diagnose conflict risks dynamics that would require prevention and/or mediation activities.
- Mobilise public administration, security forces whenever possible, traditional and religious authorities, women and youth organisations, media, on the importance of their role in peaceful conflict management, prevention of violent extremism, and strengthening social cohesion; (Senegal, Guinea).
- Prevent and support the resolution of intra- and inter-community conflicts likely to fuel instability in southern Mali (Mali).
- Ensure the sustainability of the agreements by supporting the monitoring committees and the dynamics of peace dividends (Mali).

Activities related to output 2.2

- Strengthen the operational capacity (zone and axis control, criminal investigation) of the gendarmerie in the Kédougou region, on the basis of the intervention strategy defined by the High Command of the National Gendarmerie, which favours the densification of the territorial network (bringing the action closer to population by creating ‘brigades territoriales renforcées’ (BTR) with a special attention to the easy access area of Falémé river valley (Senegal) and the gold mining area.
- Strengthening local actors’ capacities to respond effectively to the daily security and justice needs of the population (Police, Gendarmerie, communal guards, traditional and local leaders) (Guinea).

Activities related to output 2.3

- Informing local elected officials, traditional chiefs, security forces and the population of gold-bearing areas on the provisions of mining laws and the provisions relating to artisanal and small-scale mining.
- Support to CSOs for the conduct of public awareness campaigns on the dangers associated with illegal artisanal mining (security, health and environmental risks, child labor/exploitation, gender-based violence, human rights, STDs /HIV, etc.).
- Support to local development committees in the formulation of community projects in gold-bearing areas.

Activities related to Output 3.1

- Organisational audit of management capacities, of financial sustainability, institutional and operational capacities of existing GLCT; capacity reinforcement activities of local authorities and CSO, including on climate change and Disaste Risk Reduction issues.
- Facilitation of cross-border identification workshops of future GLCT Plans; promote cultural cross-border events.
- Support the capitalisation process and the dissemination of experiences between existing GLCT in three countries; support the promotion of inclusiveness through training; support to advocacy campaigns.

Activities related to Output 3.2

- Technical and financial assistance to the delivery of shared basic services infrastructures in the field of health and care, drinking water, sanitation, education, renewable energy, climate change adaptation and combating desertification, DRR; provide 'peace dividends' resulting from local peace-prevention actions.
- Support to the management of inclusive and sustainable local basic services.
- Promotion of a sustainable, climate-resilient economy of the cross-border areas through the development of irrigable areas, lowlands, livestock infrastructure; rural roads.

Activities related to Output 3.3

- Setting up local and inter-regional steering committees of this action as appropriate, as well as regular joint technical committees, and transversal coordination meetings (i.e. across all 3 results of the program).
- Research into the different activities of the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window action will be conducted to ensure a better understanding of the socio-economic and conflict dynamics.

Great Lakes window:

Activities relating to Output 4.1

- Construction of appropriate cross-border infrastructure.
- Digitalising border crossing procedures and facilitation of transaction for informal cross-border traders.
- Capacity building for border management officials in the EAC protocols and use of the EAC Border Management System.
- Awareness raising on rights and obligation of travellers and common understanding of the Common list of traded products
- Development of distribution hubs and markets outside capital cities. These hubs will ensure that cargo is managed outside of city limits with greener transport (including electric vehicles) to complete the distribution within cities. This will have to be coupled with practices like route optimisation and aggregation that help reduce empty trips thereby reducing carbon emissions.

Activities relating to Output 4.2

- Training of border patrol personnel in surveillance and management of cases of illegal border crossings and smuggling.

- Provision of border patrol with necessary equipment for surveillance and security along transit routes.
- Dissemination of information on existing legal frameworks and other information on the fight against trafficking in human beings and illicit trade of goods (law against trafficking in human beings, due diligence and traceability protocols, required certifications etc.).
- Training of legal enforcement entities to enhance the fight against trafficking in human beings and illicit trade of goods.

Activities relating to Output 5.1:

- Construction of small infrastructure projects (bridges, etc.) using local labour and a community approach.
- Strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms and the monitoring and prompt intervention against incidences of unfair treatment of cross border traders, such as case of: corruption, harassment and any forms of non-tariff barriers.
- Provision of psychosocial support/ protection for the most vulnerable small-scale cross-border traders and affected communities, including migrants and IDPs.
- Capacity building for small-scale cross border traders and cooperatives.
- Business strengthening for women traders.
- Creation of cross-border business opportunities for youth.
- Peace-promotion and reconciliation activities in borderland communities with special attention to migrants, IDPs and host communities.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Environmental impact of traditional gold-mining will be addressed by the project. Destruction of flora and faunal habitat, as well as pollution of rivers and ground water are known phenomena linked to the development of traditionally exploited goldfields. If any, the Action's impact on the environment will be positive as it will help fighting illicit traffic of goods and promote increased regulation and certification including of natural resources (raw materials, wood, coffee, fish, etc.). It will also improve artisanal gold mining governance and promote the use of gold mining techniques without mercury, which will reduce its environmental impact.

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category B (project not requiring an EIA, but for which environmental aspects will be addressed during the design of the action).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is of low risk (no need for further assessment).

The action aims at improving the sustainable management of natural resources and resilience of populations to climate change. The action will contribute to environmental and climate change issues by promoting and supporting landscape approaches based on the dissemination/adoption of climate change adaptation practices (e.g. in agriculture and natural resources management) which contributes to increased resilience, fight against desertification and disaster risk reduction, as well as to the sustainable use of natural resources. It will also support the responsible and regulated production and commercialisation of goods including wood, fishing, and minerals whose commercialisation, if uncontrolled, can have negative impacts for the environment and climate exchange (e.g. over-exploitation of fish and wood, use of chemical substance for mineral extraction, etc.) and could also be a trigger for exacerbated internal and transboundary conflict. The work on traditional goldmining will also tackle the environmental impacts of deforestation and river and ground water pollution by use of toxic chemicals. An

increase in carbon emissions is not expected as result of the action. On the contrary, the action will promote improved farming principles, such as agroecology, which will lower the impact of agriculture on climate change, and the adoption of circular economy principles on value-chains where possible.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender considerations are taken into account in all the components, phases, stages and activities of the action. Indeed, in the infrastructure related outputs, it is envisaged to strengthen women participation in the formulation, consultation and implementation mechanisms. In terms of economic activities, equal access to the infrastructures and services developed will be ensured, as will equal access to information and participation in the processes put in place. In the governance related outputs, it is envisaged to strengthen women participation in the dialogue, consultation and governance mechanisms. A particular attention will be given to women victims of gender-based violence, as they are disproportionately affected in conflict situations. It is foreseen to adopt a gender-responsive approach, especially in the project design to ensure that women and girls benefit from project activities and highlighting their important role in borderland communities.

Human Rights

The action integrates the human-rights based approach, leaving no-one behind, in particular with regard to the security, social cohesion and peace-building related outputs. This is particularly important in the fragile context of the selected borderlands areas, where the risk of systematic human rights violation is high. The strengthening of trust between the population and the security services is part of a process of respect for human rights, human integrity, respect for the presumption of innocence and the fight against police blunders, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. However, all this requires more training, information and awareness-raising for actors in cross-border areas and the security forces. Human rights issues also concern the mitigation of local conflicts through the application of the 'do no harm' principle and by guaranteeing the participation of all actors, in particular the ones living in the most disadvantaged situations (migrants, youth, women), at the various levels of governance in the processes of dialogue, consultation and capacity building.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the action does not specifically targeted people living with disabilities. However, the benefits of the action on social cohesion and local authorities' capacities will have positive effects on people living with disabilities. The Action will ensure that rights of persons with disabilities will be respected, and will encourage stakeholders and programme participants to take the initiatives to protect persons with disabilities and invite organisations representing people with disabilities. The Action is in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) , and the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 .

Reduction of inequalities

As per the Inequality Marker, this action focusing on the most vulnerable and promoting social cohesion is labelled as an I-1. The action will focus specifically on marginalised social groups such as artisanal gold miners and small-scale cross-border traders including youth and in particular women which constitute up to 85% of small-scale cross-border traders. They also tend to have lower profit margins as male cross-border traders and are often subject to harassment including physical assault and gender-based violence. Moreover, migrants and IDPs which tend to be socio-economically disadvantaged, will be given special attention, including through peace-promotion and reconciliation activities with host communities.

Democracy

In line with EU priorities regarding the promotion of democratic participation and governance, the action targets participation of social groups in the most vulnerable situations in decision-making in economic and social developments affecting their lives. The action contributes to strengthening democratic processes in two ways: firstly, by strengthening local cross-border governance, it encourages mechanisms for the participation of the population in public action and public life. Secondly, through the territorial animation of cross-border governance structures and media as well as capacity building actions, the action contributes to democracy.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The conflict-sensitive approach will guide the action. The evolving insecurity context implies that high priority is given to the consideration of conflict mechanisms and dynamics. For this, a good knowledge of the actors, causes, dynamics and consequences of conflicts is essential. This means in particular that the implementation of the action should remain compliant with International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles. The conflict-sensitive will be ensured in the following way:

- **Ongoing internal and external communication** on the evolution of the situation, allowing for a better perception of situations, degrees of tension, levels of risks. This communication will be based on the monitoring of indicators for the evolution and measurement of tensions in the targeted territories, which are defined at the beginning of the programme. It will allow the development of a more adapted reaction capacity of the different actors involved and the levels of decision making. Similarly, the regular sharing of information and analysis, whether with other international actors present in a given context, or with local authorities and communities, is essential to ensure that interventions are well coordinated and that priorities and challenges, which can change rapidly, are adequately taken into account.
- **Involvement of local actors:** During the implementation of the programme, it is important to include local partners in the conflict/insecurity analysis and to ensure that their capacity to do so is strengthened. This includes specifically local authorities and local civil society.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Considering the likeliness of climate and extreme weather event risk, drought and limited access to natural resources being a main driver of conflict, the action includes activities aimed at strengthening the preparedness and response capacity of local stakeholders and communities to disaster risk.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Political and security instability limiting access/activities	Medium	High	Adoption of a conflict sensitive, 'do no harm' and nexus approach for the identification, formulation and implementation of the action. Flexibility during the implementation (e.g. geographic areas, level of engagement with local authorities)
External environment	Insufficient ownership from national and regional authorities and civil society or from right-holders	Low	High	Involvement of key stakeholders since the formulation phase, dialogue with relevant authorities and communities
Planning, processes and systems	Reticence from local actors in relation to formalisation of economic activities	Medium	High	Flexibility during the implementation (e.g. geographic areas, level of engagement with local authorities).

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Natural hazards such as drought and floods	Medium	Medium	Regular monitoring of the local and regional context, link partners with regional authorities and ensure implementing partners have firm presence on the ground. The Action will also target communities' readiness to natural disasters and adaptability to the effects of climate change.
External environment	Unforeseen rise in forcibly displaced populations.	Medium	High	Close monitoring of security context to ensure advance planning, anticipate crises through territorial analysis and early warning systems, selection of intervention areas considered as safer, inclusion of seasonal aspects in planning. In case of drastic change, delaying some activities and/or shifting the location of the Action.
Planning, processes and systems	Partners not able to access and establish presence in borderlands.	Medium	High	Thorough selection of implementing partners, ensuring that partners have previous knowledge and expertise on implementing activities in the borderlands.
Planning, processes and systems	A gender-blind, neutral, or negative context and problem analysis could reinforce existing gender inequalities and non-respecting of human rights in the sector and hinder the efficiency and sustainability of the action.	Medium	High	Knowledge and tools of gender mainstreaming are available. Gender-sensitive monitoring, use of sex-disaggregated data, and gender-sensitive indicators. Gender mainstreaming is applied in all phases of the project cycle.
Lessons Learnt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of key stakeholders (national/local authorities, regional authorities, local communities) from the early stages of the programme and link with implementing partners. The consultation process, particularly at local level, will be part of the project design. • Ensure different intervention areas in each geographical window are coordinated and exchange on a regular basis. Leadership by relevant EU Delegations is necessary, as well as proper coordination. 				

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a gender-responsive approach, especially in the project design to ensure that women and girls benefit from project activities and highlighting their important role in borderland communities. • Establish strong M&E frameworks. • Involve implementing partners who are able to establish strong presence in remote border areas, for example by ensuring local CSOs/NGOs are included. In case of unforeseen events, project designs per area of intervention should include contingency plans. • Lessons learnt from previous cross-border programmes like the implementation of One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) by the likes of TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) will be integrated in the action design. 				

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that IF the resilience and social cohesion of selected borderlands communities are improved IF local security is strengthened IF cross-border cooperation and local governance are enhanced, IF economic growth of borderlands communities is fostered AND there is no major regional conflict or escalation of the current crisis, THEN the social, economic, cultural and institutional conditions for security, social cohesion, development and economic integration of the selected cross-border areas will be improved thereby strengthening national and regional stability.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines ¹³ (values and years)	Targets ¹⁴ (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	The social, economic, cultural and institutional conditions for security, social cohesion, development and economic integration of the selected cross-border areas are improved.	1 Evolution of insecurity in the area (SN-ML-GN) 2 changes in the level of access to socio-economic services (SN-ML-GN) 3 % increase in the total value (USD) of cross border trade (DRC & UG) through official targeted borders (Mahagi, Lake Albert) 4 Border communities are more peaceful (DRC/UG)	1 To be determined 2 To be determined 3 USD 133.3 million in 2018 (exports Uganda to DRC); 9 million in 2018 (exports DRC to Uganda) 4 To be determined	1 To be determined 2 To be determined 3 USD 150 million (exports Uganda to DRC) in 2028 ; 30 million (exports DRC to Uganda) in 2028 4 To be determined	1 Aclcd data 2 National and local statistics 3 National Bureaus of Statistics (e.x. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)) 4 Perception survey	<i>Not applicable</i>
<i>Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window</i>						

¹³ All TBD baselines will be confirmed in inception phase. The indicative baseline year will be 2022 unless indicated otherwise.

¹⁴ All TBB targets will be confirmed in inception phase. The indicative target year will be 2027 unless indicated otherwise.

Outcome 1	1 The resilience of local communities is strengthened by inclusive access to basic services and inclusive and climate resilient income generating activities via value chains approach (reinforced and formalised gold mining among others), with a focus on people living in the most vulnerable situations, in particular women and youth	1.1 GERF 2.13 Number of (a) jobs, (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU, disaggregated by sex, age, income level, ethnicity 1.2 Number of support mechanisms for the creation of economic activities created	1.1To be determined 1.2 To be determined	1.1To be determined 1.2 To be determined	1.1 Statistics and indicators produced by the programme monitoring reports 1.2 Activity report of local structures 1.3 Distributional Impact Assessment (DIA)	Political conditions allow for cooperation between countries in the cross-border areas. States are willing to strengthen cooperation frameworks between them.
Outcome 2	2 Local security is improved by fighting illegal trafficking (including trafficking in human beings) and cross-border crime as well as reinforced security co-production (including internal security forces, civil society, local authorities, women and youth) to prevent and address local conflicts and building trust towards the authorities	2.1 Evolution of the number of border incidents 2.2 Perception of the security situation in the target area	2.1To be determined 2.2 To be determined	2.1To be determined 2.2 To be determined	2.1 Statistics and indicators produced by the programme monitoring reports 2.2.Activity reports National Borders Commissions	There is no major political crisis leading to the suspension of funding.
Outcome 3	3 Cross-border cooperation is structured and its governance is strengthened and delivers better access to basic services to populations	3.1 Level of functioning of cross-border governance frameworks (number of meetings, operating tools, operational capacities) 3.2 Number of texts adopted	3.1To be determined 3.2 To be determined	3.1To be determined 3.2 To be determined	3.1 Statistics and indicators produced by the programme monitoring reports 3.3 Activity report of local structures	
Great Lakes window						

Outcome 4	4 Economic growth is promoted and the movement of people and goods across borders is facilitated	4.1 Total import and export flows, per targeted border post 4.2 Improved Cross Border Trade environment and processes for traders, especially, women	4.1 To be determined 4.2 To be determined	4.1 To be determined 4.2 To be determined	4.1 National Bureaus of Statistics (e.x. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS); academic reports 4.2 Surveys	Cooperation between respective governments and adherence to bilateral agreements is assured Informal and women traders are willing to cooperate to finding solutions
Outcome 5	5 The social cohesion and security within borderland communities is strengthened	5.1 % of harassment cases reported by cross border traders (women) surveyed 5.2 Number of harassment cases followed up by the border authorities (police)	5.1 To be determined 5.2 To be determined	5.1 To be determined 5.2 To be determined	5.1 International reports; surveys 5.2 National register; surveys	Local authorities and cross border traders are willing to collaborate. The security and economic situation remains stable or is improved.
<i>Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window</i>						
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1 Access to basic services including documentation is facilitated	1.1.1 Number of social infrastructure built or rehabilitated 1.1.2 Number of people having improved access to basic services, disaggregated by sex/age/income level/ethnicity 1.1.3 Number of local communities that adopt and implement	1.1.1 To be determined 1.1.2 To be determined 1.1.3 To be determined	1.1.1 To be determined 1.1.2 To be determined 1.1.3 To be determined	Reports and statistics produced by the programme	Local actors adhere to and participate in the processes put in place. The frameworks, mechanisms and processes created build

Output 2 related to Outcome 1	1.2 Resilience of populations, especially women and youth, and support the socio-economic development of the territories via value-chain approaches is increased, including the possibility of formalisation of artisanal gold-mining.	1.2.1 Number of people assisted to develop economic income-generating activities, disaggregated by sex/age/income level/ethnicity	1.2.1 To be determined	1.2.1 To be determined		on existing dynamics. The security situation is not deteriorating to the point of preventing any intervention. The implementation operators have the skills, capacities and well-trained personnel to implement the programme activities in the required quality and in compliance with technical, financial, human and security conditions with conflict-sensitive management.
		1.2.2 Number of people benefiting from trainings and/or skills development, disaggregated by sex/age/income level/ethnicity	1.2.2 To be determined	1.2.2 To be determined		
		1.2.3 Number of initiatives and trainings to support the artisanal gold mining sector	1.2.3 To be determined	1.2.3 To be determined		
		1.2.4 Number of state institutions and non-state actors supported on security, border management, countering violent extremism, conflict prevention, protection of civilian population and human rights	1.2.4 to be determined	1.2.4 to be determined		
Output 3 related to Outcome 1	1.3 Tensions related to the management of natural resources and the environmental impacts of traditional gold-mining are reduced and related conflicts prevented.	1.3.1 Number of activities/events explicitly dedicated to raising awareness and sensitivity of general public regarding environmental issues	1.3.1 To be determined	1.3.1 To be determined		
		1.3.2 Number of local development action plans that include environmental protection targets and approaches	1.3.2 To be determined	1.3.2 To be determined		
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	2.1 Conflict risks is decreased by prevention and mediation processes	2.1.1 Extent to which institutional / governmental actors report better collaboration with the population for conflict prevention and the co-production of security	2.1.1 To be determined	2.1.1 To be determined		
		2.1.2 Number of local agreements signed and implemented	2.1.2 To be determined	2.1.2 To be determined		

Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.2 Local actors and security forces capacities are strengthened to better ensure security and access to justice for the population	2.2.1 Number of institutional actors who feel equipped to better respond to the security needs of the population thanks to the support of the EU	2.2.1 To be determined	2.2.1 To be determined		
		2.2.2 Number of local security structures created, assisted or made operational thanks to the intervention	2.2.2 To be determined	2.2.2 To be determined		
Output 3 related to Outcome 2	2.3 Artisanal gold mining contributes to local development in a stable, secure environment conducive to social cohesion	2.3.1 Number of institutional and civil society organisations involved in promoting responsible artisanal mining.	2.3.1 To be determined	2.3.1 To be determined		
		2.3.2 Extent to which community leaders see artisanal gold mining as having a positive impact on their community.	2.3.2 To be determined	2.3.2 To be determined		
Output 1 related to Outcome 3	3.1 The frameworks for cross-border governance in peripheral areas are well designed and operational (if non existant) or improved and operational, and cooperation capacity between local authorities is improved	3.1.1 Number of new cross-border entities created together with a development plan developed inclusively	3.1.1 To be determined	3.1.1 To be determined		
		3.1.2 Number of CLDP created and/or updated	3.1.2 To be determined	3.1.2 To be determined		
		3.1.3 Number of joint cross-border cooperation initiatives between authorities	3.1.3 To be determined	3.1.3 To be determined		
		3.1.4 Number of individuals receiving support (including youth, and women)	3.1.4 To be determined	3.1.4 To be determined		
Output 2 related to Outcome 3	3.2 CLDPs are operationalised by local authorities through the implementation of public infrastructures for basic social services, and for local economy	3.2.1 Number of right holders having access to basic services (water, sanitation, education), disaggregated by sex/age/income level/ethnicity	3.2.1 To be determined	3.2.1 To be determined		
		3.2.2 Number of basic services implemented	3.2.2 To be determined	3.2.2 To be determined		
		3.2.3 Number of economic public infrastructures created	3.2.3 To be determined	3.2.3 To be determined		

Output 3 related to Outcome 3	3.3 Coordination between regional authorities and their cross-border cooperation structures is reinforced, and political advocacy at local, national and regional level on issues of security, social cohesion and development of peripheral areas is improved and the drivers of socio-economic dynamics of the region are better understood through quantitative and qualitative research	3.3.1: Number of exchanges between political actors on the issue 3.3.2 Number of regional coordination meetings organised 3.3.3: Number of communication actions and advocacy frameworks created 3.3.4: Number of research conducted in the region' 3.3.5.: Number of individual interviews conducted' 3.3.6: Number of analytical reports produced'	3.3.1 To be determined 3.3.2 To be determined 3.3.3 To be determined 3.3.4 To be determined 3.3.5 To be determined 3.3.6 To be determined	3.3.1 To be determined 3.3.2 To be determined 3.3.3 To be determined 3.3.4 To be determined 3.3.5 To be determined 3.3.6 To be determined		
<i>Great Lakes window</i>						
Output 1 relating to Outcome 4	4.1 Border management procedures are efficient, integrated and aligned with EAC procedures	4.1.1 Reduction in time (cost) spent crossing the border 4.1.2 Number of border management committees trained in EAC customs procedures	4.1.1 To be determined 4.1.2 0 in 2024	4.1.1 To be determined 4.1.2 3 in 2028	4.1.1 Partner and Baseline survey reports based on identified borders 4.1.2 Progress reports	Both governments support necessary reforms Customs officials are open to learning and willing to engage with new incentive structures

Output 2 relating to Outcome 4	4.2 Local conditions and capacities for the fight against the illicit trafficking of goods are improved	4.2.1 Number of Non-Tariff barriers eliminated	4.2.1 0 in 2024	4.2.1 20 in 2028	4.2.1 Progress reports	Governments and border administrators agree to proposed trade process reforms
		4.2.2 Number of operational Trade Information Desks	4.2.2 To be determined	4.2.2 To be determined	4.2.2 Perception surveys; progress report;	
		4.2.3 Border communities' knowledge of rules, laws and procedures for fighting illicit trafficking of goods is improved	4.2.3 To be determined	4.2.3 To be determined	4.2.3 Baseline and progress survey report based on identified border communities	
		4.2.4 Number of actors who feel trained and equipped to better respond to the illicit trafficking of goods	4.2.4 To be determined	4.2.4 To be determined	4.2.4 Perception surveys; progress report	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 5	5.1 Conflict and tensions within and amongst local border communities are reduced	5.1.1 Number of officials/traders/producers trained and sensitised, disaggregated by gender	5.1.1 0 in 2024	5.1.1 100 in 2028	5.1.1 Progress reports	Traders and producers intend to increase the efficiency and profitability of trade
		5.1.2 Number of UG-DRC joint border committees set up and functioning to address issues	5.1.2 0 in 2024	5.1.2 10 in 2028	5.1.2 Progress reports	
		5.1.3 Border community members jointly established, manage and maintain small infrastructure projects	5.1.3 0 in 2024	5.1.3 10 in 2028	5.1.3 Progress report	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

Not applicable

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹⁵.

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

It is foreseen that grants will be awarded to cover activities related to output 4.1 'Border management procedures are efficient, integrated and aligned with EAC procedures' of the Great Lakes window.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The foreseen applicants include legal entities, NGOs (both local and international), local authorities, economic operators such as SMEs and international organisations able to implement this part of the action in selected areas both in DRC and in Uganda.

4.4.2 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

4.4.2.1

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- An internationally recognised organisation with a positive track record on working in the region in the relevant thematic sectors linked to Specific Objectives of the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries Window;
- Experience and developed expertise in local Government coordination;
- Previous experience as implementing partner of EU-funding.
- A good working relationship with the Governments of Guinea, Mali and Senegal as an added value.

The implementation by this entity entails Specific objectives 1 'Strengthening the resilience of local communities by i) improving inclusive access to basic services and ii) fostering inclusive and climate-

¹⁵ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

resilient income generating activities via value chains approach (reinforced and formalised gold mining among others), with a focus on people living in the most vulnerable situations, in particular women and youth'; SO 2 'Improving local security'¹⁶ by i) fighting illegal trafficking (including trafficking in human beings) and cross-border crime and ii) reinforce security co-production (including internal security forces, civil society, local authorities, women and youth) to prevent and address local conflicts and building trust towards the authorities' and SO 3 'Fostering cross-border cooperation via common interest activities and strengthened local governance (according to the local context, inclusive participation of youth, women, civil society and local authorities) related to the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window.

4.4.2.2

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- An internationally recognised organisation with a positive track record on working in borderlands in the East African Region, able to implement this part of the action in selected areas both in DRC and in Uganda;
- Previous experience as implementing partner of EU-funding;
- Added value if the organisation has a good working relationship with the Governments of Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

The implementation by this entity entails outputs 4.2 'Local conditions for the fight against the illicit trafficking of goods are improved' and 5.1 'Conflict and tensions within and amongst local border communities are reduced' of the Great Lakes window.

4.4.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

In case no suitable entity under indirect management is identified under section 4.4.2.1 for the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window, it could be foreseen to implement this part with the following alternative implementation modalities:

- The part of this action linked to Specific Objective 1 of the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window might alternatively be implemented in direct management by procurement.
- The part of this action linked to Specific Objective 2 of the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window might alternatively be implemented in direct management by grants to non-governmental organisations.
- The part of this action linked to Specific Objective 3 of the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window might alternatively be implemented in direct management by procurement.

Specifically,

Direct Management (Grants)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Grants might be necessary to implement Specific Objective 2 of the Sahel-Atlantic Coast window of this action 'Improving local security'¹⁷ by i) fighting illegal trafficking (including trafficking in human beings) and cross-border crime and ii) reinforce security co-production (including internal security forces, civil society, local authorities, women and youth) to prevent and address local conflicts and building trust towards the authorities'.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

¹⁶ No direct or indirect support can be provided to Defence and Security Forces in Mali for the time being. Work with local authorities can be possible on a case by case basis. Community-based co-production of security will be prioritised. A similar approach will be adopted for Guinee, adapting to the developments of the political transition.

¹⁷ No direct or indirect support can be provided to Defence and Security Forces in Mali for the time being. Work with local authorities can be possible on a case by case basis. Community-based co-production of security will be prioritised. A similar approach will be adopted for Guinee, adapting to the developments of the political transition.

International non-governmental organisations.

The potential applicants should have verifiable experience of working in the relevant thematic sectors for the Specific Objective to which they would apply, in at least one of the three countries (Guinea-Mali-Senegal) in the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window of this action.

Direct Management (Procurement)

As stated above, procurement in direct management may also be an option to implement Specific Objective 1 and 3 of the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window of this action in case the preferred option indicated in section 4.4.2.1 is not pursued.

In case no suitable applicant under direct management is identified under section 4.4.1 for the Great Lakes window, it could be foreseen to implement this part in indirect management by an entity satisfying the same criteria described in 4.4.2.2 .

In case no suitable entity under indirect management is identified under section 4.4.2.2 for the Great Lakes window, it could be foreseen to implement this part in direct management through grants to an applicant satisfying the same criteria described in 4.4.1 .

Specifically,

Direct Management (Grants)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Grants might be necessary to implement outputs 4.2 “Local conditions for the fight against the illicit trafficking of goods are improved” and 5.1 “Conflict and tensions within and amongst local border communities are reduced” of the Great Lakes window.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The foreseen applicants include legal entities, NGOs (both local and international), local authorities, economic operators such as SMEs and international organisations able to implement this part of the action in selected areas both in DRC and in Uganda.

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	EU Budget 2023	EU Budget 2024
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3			
Objectives 1, 2 and 3 (Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window) composed of	30 000 000	30 000 000	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity- cf. section 4.4.2.1	30 000 000	30 000 000	

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	EU Budget 2023	EU Budget 2024
Output 4.1 (Great Lakes window) composed of	10 000 000	10 000 000	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	10 000 000	10 000 000	
Outputs 4.2 and 5.1 (Great Lakes window) composed of	15 000 000		15 000 000
Indirect management with an entrusted entity- cf. section 4.4.2.2	15 000 000		15 000 000
Grants – total envelope under section 4.4.1	10 000 000		
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision		
Totals	55 000 000	40 000 000	15 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

For the Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window the following structures will be put in place:

- i. A Steering Committee including :
 - The Commission (EU Delegations involved)
 - The representatives of the Ministries in charge of defence, security, territorial administration and the national border management structures of the three countries covered;
 - The representatives of cross-border governance frameworks in the cross-border intervention areas

The detailed modalities of the Steering Committee will be agreed upon during the inception phase. In general, the Steering Committee will aim at ensuring the smooth running of the programme and to ensure its coordination. It is expected to meet twice per year.

- ii. A monitoring committee comprising :
 - The Delegations to the European Union involved
 - The monitoring focal points within the Ministries in charge of security
 - The representatives of the national structures in charge of border management
 - One representative per ministry in charge of cooperation, development, defence, security, territorial administration, decentralisation, trade, mines, water and forests, agriculture and livestock.
 - A representative of the local actors (local authorities) or monitoring expert from the border regions concerned

The main mission of the country monitoring committee is to monitor the implementation of the programme in the country. It serves as a national coordination framework to ensure coherence between interventions and national priorities, to ensure the involvement of national and local authorities and to identify difficulties in the country in order to find solutions. The detailed modalities of the monitoring committees will be agreed upon during the inception phase.

For the Great Lakes window the following structures will be put in place:

- i. A Steering Committee including :
 - The Commission (EU Delegations involved)
 - The representatives of the Ministries / National Agencies in charge of Health, Security, Trade, Mines, territorial administration and the national border management structures of the two countries covered;
 - The representatives of cross-border governance frameworks in the cross-border intervention areas

The detailed modalities of the Steering Committee will be agreed upon during the inception phase. In general, the Steering Committee will aim at ensuring the smooth running of the programme and to ensure its coordination. It is expected to meet once or twice per year.

- ii. A monitoring committee comprising¹⁸ :
 - The Delegations to the European Union involved
 - The implementing partners in charge of the project
 - The monitoring focal points within the Ministries in charge of security
 - The representatives of the national structures in charge of border management
 - One representative per ministry in charge of cooperation, security, territorial administration, decentralisation, trade, mines, water and forests, agriculture and livestock.
 - A representative of the local actors (local authorities, local communities, civil society organisations) or monitoring expert from the border regions concerned

The main mission of the country monitoring committee is to monitor the implementation of the programme in the country. It serves as a national coordination framework to ensure coherence between interventions and national priorities, to ensure the involvement of national and local authorities and to identify difficulties in the country in order to find solutions. The detailed modalities of the monitoring committees will be agreed upon during the inception phase.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring

¹⁸ See the point 'Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues' page 8

reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Each implementing entity will have specific responsibilities for monitoring and reporting under this action. Common indicators will as much as possible be used in order to allow Action Document wide reporting. Indicator values could be measured at regional level or at country level and then harmonised depending on the nature of the activities.

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach, and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex.

The Distributional Impact Assessment tool (DIA) will be applied as a data source whenever other sources (national, regional, local data) are not available to monitor whether expected outputs have, to a large extent, benefited socio-economically disadvantaged groups, households and individuals. The DIA can also be performed at the start of the implementation phase to a) locate where the most vulnerable live and target them geographically; b) identify main drivers of inequalities (e.g. reasons for not accessing some services) c) unveil intersectionalities (e.g. bottom 40 per cent income who are women, children etc.)

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance and the nature of the action, a mid-term and final evaluation(s) will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission or via an implementing partner.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to adaptation of the action to a changing context.

A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision) taking into account in particular the fact that the action is complementary to other interventions and helps to meet national public policy implementation needs.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation plan (or component in the foreseen evaluation) should assess the distributional impact of activities undertaken on the socio-economically disadvantaged individuals, households or groups. This can be done through the Distributional Impact Assessment tool (DIA). The DIA analysis looks at the effective targeting of beneficiaries of development interventions, identifying if more than 40 per cent of beneficiaries are at the bottom two quintiles of the income or wealth distribution. It also allows to evaluate whether effective targeting has been done towards women, children and youth or other disadvantaged groups (e.g. ethnic minorities) or at territorial level.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Given the nature of the action, provision for Audit and Verifications for this action or its components is not necessary.

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 '[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)', it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Indicatively: Contribution agreement with a pillar assessed entity (EUR 30 000 000) to implement Specific Objectives 1, 2 and 3 (Sahel-Atlantic Coast countries window)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Indicatively: Grant (EUR 10 000 000) to implement output 4.1 (Great Lakes window)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Indicatively: Contribution agreement with a pillar assessed entity (EUR 15 000 000) to implement outputs 4.2 and 5.1 (Great Lakes window)